

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated December 29, 2006. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

As outlined above, claims 1-17 stand for consideration in this application, wherein claims 1-9 and 14-17 are being amended to correct formal errors and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject invention.

All amendments to the application are fully supported therein. Applicants hereby submit that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Formal Rejections

Claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. As suggested by the Examiner, claims 1-9 and 14-17 are being amended to meet the requirements under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Therefore, dependent claims 10-13 would also meet the requirements under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-17 are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for holding that claims 1-17 would be allowed if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 1-9 and 14-17 are being amended to meet the requirements under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and therefore, claims 1-9 and 14-17 and dependent claims 10-13 would be allowable.

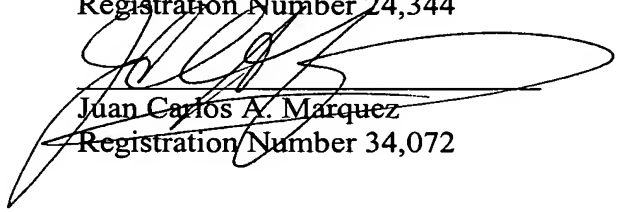
Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance as set forth in the Office Action. However, Applicants will point out that the reasons for allowability of the above referenced claims are not limited to the reasons for allowance as set forth in the Office Action.

Conclusion

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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